

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] In the method, the processing space, with a smooth lateral area $A_{m(2)}$ (housing surface), a free volume V_f as well as the outer diameter of the screw D_a and the internal diameter of the screw D_i of the screws rotating only with respect to their own axis in the same direction and also having a smooth surface, is designed in such a manner that at least one part of the processing area has a ratio A_{m^3}/V_f^2 between 1020 and 3050 for twin flighted screw elements and a ratio A_{m^3}/V_f^2 between 2000 and 7300 for triple flighted screw elements at a D_a/D_i ratio of 1.3 to 1.7. In this context, the free volume V_f refers to the receiving capacity of the components that are supplied. Each volume unit of the product is provided with a large surface for cooling/heating and degassing the product, which permits smooth handling of the components that are supplied and, therefore, high quality of the final product. The smooth lateral area of the extruder processing space and the smooth surface of the self-cleaning screws ensure that the extruder is fully self-cleaning.

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] In the method, the processing space of the extruder 1, with a smooth wedge surface ~~[[(2)]]~~ (7) A_z , a free volume (8) V_f as well as the outer diameter (5) D_a and the ~~internal~~ inner diameter (6) D_i of the screws 3 rotating only with respect to their own axis in the same direction and also having a smooth surface, is designed in such a manner that at least one part of the processing area has a ratio A_z^3/V_f^2 between 0.5 and 2.11 for twin flighted screw elements and a ratio A_z^3/V_f^2 between 0.02 and 1.50 for triple flighted screw elements at a D_a/D_i ratio of 1.3 to 1.7. The

high percentage of wedge areas leads to a high number of rearrangement processes and therefore good mixing properties. In particular in case several wedge areas are used, increased axial flow of the material is achieved, which contributes to reducing the residence time of the product in the extruder. Once again, the product is processed in a less impairing manner by using a plurality of screws with the lowest possible screw diameter in combination of low speeds of rotation of up to 600 rpm. The resulting shearing and kneading forces hardly impair the product. The plurality of screws results in a short length of the processing step with a high ratio between the specific wedge surface and the free volume. Once again, the smooth wedge area and the smooth surface of the self-cleaning screws ensure complete self-cleaning of the processing space.

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] It is furthermore advantageous to use ~~dense-comb~~ tightly intermeshing screw elements whose self-cleaning effect contributes to low thermal impairment of the product.